

REWARD FOR ASSAILANTS OF HILLMAN LEE, MELVILLE REACH TOTAL OF \$3211

While volunteer contributions reached \$3211, in the reward fund offered for the arrest and conviction of the thugs who attacked from the rear and beat, even after they were unconscious, Hillman R. Lee, manager of the Torrance J. C. Penney Co. store, and John Melville, local dairyman, police this week were unable to offer any solution to the crime perpetrated Feb. 1.

Meanwhile, Lee and his family were guests at an Arizona desert resort, where the popular local merchant was recovering from facial fractures, bruises and shock resulting from the attack, and Melville, who rushed to the aid of Lee during the attack and who himself was severely beaten, was about his normal business.

The reward fund climbed to the \$3211 mark, with volunteer pledges coming not only from Torrance people but from peace-loving citizens throughout the county. It was aided materially by the \$1000 reward offered by the J. C. Penney Co., who said in their announcement that they trust that those responsible for this attack will be quickly brought to justice. All evidence points to the fact that the slugging and kicking resulted from well-planned preparation.

Requested by Dr. Claude A. Watson, Huntington Park attorney and religious leader, for a thorough and conclusive investigation and prosecution of those who are responsible for such conduct, the district attorney's office, through the bureau of investigation to which it was referred, declared that "we just sent two men out to get information, and we are ready to go to work on it. We'll go as far as we can." Dr. Watson addressed his letter to the district attorney last Wednesday, declaring that "the Torrance incident is a tragic situation of brutality and that such incidents place labor at a tremendous disadvantage."

Dr. Watson said that he was acting for the Christian Citizenship Foundation.

Representatives of the district attorney and specialists of the sheriff's office, on the job, Chief of Police John Stroh said that every angle in the case was being investigated. Various witnesses have been interrogated, and the case looks more favorable than it did a week ago, the chief said.

Lee was attacked at 4:30 p.m., after he had closed his store after his first day of operation on a self-service basis on Feb. 1. He had gone to his automobile at the rear of the store, tried to start it and falling to do so had investigated the trouble by lifting the hood of his car.

As he was leaning over, discovering wires cut and ignition parts removed, he was slugged by two men. He slumped, unconscious, to the ground, and then was kicked several times until the thugs were driven off by the approach of Melville, who grappled with the assailants.

Melville, in turn, was attacked by two more men, also from the rear.

Both were confined with their injuries, Lee in Torrance Memorial hospital for eight days here.

(Continued on Page 4-C)

New York Air Commuting Bid Watched Here

Local aviation and helicopter enthusiasts are watching with interest for action on the Civil Aeronautics Board on the petition of Air Commuting, Inc., of New York, for a permit to provide commuter's air line service by helicopter for metropolitan New York.

A similar petition has been filed by Southwest Airways, Inc., to serve Los Angeles county metropolitan area with air mail and express service first and passengers later. Torrance would be the terminal of one of the lines proposed by J. G. Ray, of Southwest Airways.

J. L. Fitzmaurice, associate examiner for the Civil Aeronautics Board, announced that Air Commuting, Inc., proposed to give suburban residents in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut regular air transportation to Manhattan.

Air Commuting's bid for C. A. B. charter approval was scheduled to be presented at hearings Jan. 30, Fitzmaurice said, following completion of testimony by intervenors in the Middle Atlantic case. A campaign by 31 air lines to make commercial aviation routes touch hundreds of communities never before on the air map.

Albert Bettel, attorney for Air Commuting, asserted the novel helicopter plan is supported entirely by "private capital willing to make this experiment." He said the company does not seek government subsidies to carry mail.

Council Sets Limits of New Water District

Boundaries for the proposed North Torrance water district were fixed last night by the City Council. The south boundary is 190th st., except the area from Crenshaw blvd. to Hawthorne blvd., where it will extend southward for one-fourth mile into the holdings of the General Petroleum Corp. Also eliminated were 95 acres included in the Acquisition and Improvement District No. 1 now served by the Moneta Water Co.

It is reported that the assessed valuation of the district will be \$776,000, sufficient to support a bond issue capable of providing an adequate water system for North Torrance. If 160 acres of county territory, adjoining Torrance outside its northwest limits, is annexed, it will provide another \$40,000 assessed valuation for the district.

Hollywood Riviera Also reported was the fact that Hollywood Riviera has a valuation of \$600,000, sufficient to float a \$150,000 water improvement bond issue. If a district is created, this will provide sufficient funds for the Hollywood Riviera section's water system and allow enough additional money to build a pipe line from the Metropolitan Water district trunk line in Lomita adequate in size to serve all of Southwest Torrance, including the Hollywood Riviera section.

The engineering firm of Taylor & Taylor was authorized to make the necessary legal surveys preparatory to forming the district in Hollywood Riviera.

Taxi to be Controlled Definite action to control the taxicab business of Torrance was taken by the City Council last night when it adopted the regulatory ordinance providing for fees, color schemes and other requirements.

Zone Hearings Hearings on the proposals to abolish the 10 and 15 foot alley setbacks were set for March 5.

Likewise the hearing was set for March 5 on the petition of C. C. M. O. for rezoning of property west of International Derick and Equipment Company's plant on Carson st., to permit expansion of the plant.

Both matters were referred to the council by the City Planning Commission, recommending favorable action.

Pueblo Sewage Complaints that a "grave and serious menace" exists in the Pueblo district, where raw sewage is flowing under houses and on the street, was read to the council, from the County Health Dept. Since the city has provided a sanitation system for the area, the matter was referred back to the county for necessary action.

Permits For G.P. Tanks Swell Total

General Petroleum Corp. accounted for \$361,500 of the total \$371,175 in building permits issued in Torrance during the past week according to Building Department records.

Boosting up the Torrance annual building totals, General Petroleum was granted permits to build six 5,000 barrel steel tanks at a cost of \$28,000; two 134,000 barrel tanks, \$260,000; and 20,000 barrel tanks, \$72,000, and an addition to the plants and an addition to the plant's control house, \$1,300.

Other permits issued are of the following:

Sam Levy, 1334 El Prado, install partition, \$1,200.

Great Lakes Carbon Co., 21615 Madrona ave., steel frame building, \$2,000.

Robert J. Baldwin, 24414 Ward st., addition to residence, \$1,300.

C. B. Bagnall, 1505 Border ave., storage building, \$300.

E. Z. Lopp, 807 Cota ave., moved in four-room frame residence, \$3,800; frame garage, \$400.

Charles Rogers, 2121 Carson st., underground gasoline storage tank, \$175.

G. Bradford, 1233 Beech st., barbecue pit and playhouse, \$600.

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1946

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PICK THE WINNER . . . Here are the first three entrants in the "Miss Torrance of 1946" contest being sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club of Torrance. Left is Cubie Bohannon, center, Beverly Kelly and right, Shirley Saffen. (Ray's photos).

Eight Torrance beauties, tickets in hand, launched out on a campaign for "Miss Torrance of 1946" yesterday, each confident that she would win and each backed by some firm or organization.

In a popularly contested sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club for the benefit of a Young Women's Christian Association fund in Torrance, the eight girls receive final instructions from Mrs. John H. Ritchie, chairman of the contest committee.

Three of them went to Ray's Studio to have their pictures taken in time for this edition of the Torrance Herald, and the photographs of the others will appear next week.

Tickets are being sold at a rate of 10 cents for 10 votes, but sales are running in multiples as the girls undertake their campaign.

"Miss Torrance of 1946" will preside over the annual Torrance Woman's Club carnival as queen, on March 16.

All entries are unmarried, be-

tween the ages of 16 and 21, and take it from the photographer and press agent, they are "nice." The contest will end at midnight, March 11.

The contestants are: Cubie Bohannon, 20, of 1320 1/2 Cota ave., an employee of Columbia Steel Co., where workers are rallying to her support.

Shirley Saffen, 17, of 1411 Crenshaw blvd., a senior at Torrance High school, who is a Lions Club and Moose Lodge candidate. She really has a team organized at the high school.

Doris Lee Quaglin, 17, of 1609 Amapola ave., Queen of Job's Daughters and a high school student, she is sponsored by the Rotary Club.

Frances Barrington, 17, of 2368 Torrance blvd., also a high school student and running under the sponsorship of the Kiwanis club.

Virginia Tuttle, 17, of 2424 Hawthorne blvd., Torrance, but a Narbonne High school student who shares sponsorship of the Lions club with Miss Saffen.

Beverly Holmes, 20, of the Gaylord Apartments, and an employee of Torrance Army hospital. She is sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3251, and auxiliary.

Marge Dunham, 17, Torrance high school student, who has the sponsorship of the American Legion Post No. 170.

Beverly Kelly, 19, of 917 Amapola ave., who is an employee of National Supply Co., and who has the sponsorship of that "go-getting" group of employees.

It's going to be hard to say "no" to the sales appeal of these gals, folks, so be prepared. And remember, it all goes for a worthy cause, a Y. W. C. A. for Torrance girls and women.

In addition to the portraits from Ray's Studio, the beautiful gold, 17-jean cocktail watch from W. T. Greene of Torrance Time Shop and the loving cup prizes already announced, other prizes have been announced for the winners and runners up in the contest.

Strike Violence Curb Asked By New Organization

A Citizens' Law and Order Committee for Los Angeles County, "to develop plans to discourage violence and physical injuries in connection with strikes," was formed Monday at a meeting attended by representatives of 50 businesses, professions and civic groups including Blaine Walker, executive secretary, Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

"This," said James L. Beebe, "is a community-wide expression of indignation at the unbridled contempt for law and order expressed in such incidents as the vicious beating recently in Torrance and the mob violence in connection with the motion picture strike."

Beebe, long a civic leader and an attorney, is chairman of the committee. Among other members are E. C. Hummel, president of the Metal Trades Manufacturers' Association; C. A. Saint, president of Los Angeles Realty Board; K. T. Norris, president of the California Manufacturers' Association; Paul Shoup, president of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association; and E. H. McGinnis, vice-president of the M. & M.

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SUPERVISORS ACT TO ACQUIRE TORRANCE ARMY HOSPITAL AS BRANCH COUNTY FACILITY

Steps to acquire the Torrance Army hospital for use as a branch of the county general hospital were taken by the Board of Supervisors yesterday on motion of Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

Darby's motion was to instruct the chief administrative officer and the superintendent of the hospital to negotiate for the acquisition of the hospital which the United States Army is abandoning on March 31.

Rapid action was asked by Darby that the facilities and equipment at the 480-bed hospital may not be disturbed.

The Army already is moving out, "lock, stock and barrel" with the aim of completing the withdrawal of all personnel not later than March 31.

"We'd like to have that hospital," Darby told a group of Torrance civic leaders who proposed the action to him Tuesday, for a meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce office.

He said that he had been working on the matter and one favorable motion already had been adopted by the supervisors several months ago, at the suggestion of the Lions club, but the army indicated no desire to abandon the hospital.

"Every bed in the county general hospital is filled," Supervisor Darby declared. "We need this Torrance Army hospital to take care of overflow and to provide for needed facilities in the harbor district, both emergency and indigent cases."

"We will contact the army authorities at once and start negotiations."

The Torrance Hospital Association has adopted a resolution urging the county to so act, stressing the overcrowded conditions in the county general hospital and the long haul necessary to take patients to that big institution. They said that the Torrance Army hospital is splendidly equipped with the finest equipment.

Likewise, the Torrance City Council is on record in favor of the county move due to the need for emergency hospital facilities in this area.

It is needed as an emergency facility for the harbor and south bay districts, it is pointed out, and a contract between the county and the cities of Torrance, Los Angeles, Redondo Beach, Gardena, Palms Verdes and Hermosa Beach already has been proposed to meet the growing need.

(Continued on Page 4-A)

SECURITY BRINGS REQUEST FOR COUNCIL TO DELAY SETBACK CONSIDERATION

Torrance City Council last night was asked to delay action on any recommendations of the City Planning Commission regarding the proposal of local central business district property owners that alley setbacks of 10 and 15 feet be removed until the business men have been given opportunity to study the recommendations.

The action was requested in a letter from the Community Planning Committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, of which Charles V. Jones, local lumber and hardware man, is chairman.

It followed the refusal of Chairman Tom McGuire to admit the press and public to its "regular, adjourned meeting" of Feb. 5 at which time the recommendations were said to have been agreed upon, and refusal of City Engineer G. M. Jain to divulge the nature of the recommendations when requested to do so on Feb. 6.

It is reported that the planning commission agreed to reduce the 10 and 15 foot setback requirements to five feet, giving property owners the right to petition for variances in specific cases.

This does not meet the approval of the community planning committee, it is said, business men and property owners who are holding up construction

of a number of projects awaiting clarification of the issue asserting:

1. No setback is necessary in view of the present width of alleys. They are 20 feet wide, sufficient for unloading of the largest trucks without hampering movement of traffic through the alleys.

2. A jogged pattern already has been established with unsightly and hazardous results. Alley entrances in almost every instance are only 20 feet wide because of buildings constructed before the set-back provision was adopted a few years ago, and the jogging is caused by enforcement of the set-back provision in newer construction. The five-foot requirement, if adopted and enforced, would create a further "jogged" pattern and only add to the unsightliness of the rear of stores. The setback also serves as a gathering place for wind-blown rubbish and paper with resulting fire and health hazards.

3. If the alley setback is fixed at five feet, in some places alleys will be 50 feet in width (wider than many streets of Torrance) at others 40 feet, others 30 feet and still others 20 feet. If setback provisions are removed, and a uniform 20-foot-alley established, present store buildings in most cases will be extended rearward, providing much needed space in stores, removing the "jogged" appearance of the alleys and eliminating the health and fire hazards.

Doors thrown open to all comers provides these public bodies their greatest protection against unjust criticism, just as it provides the people with access to the deliberations of the men entrusted with policy making and governing of their affairs.

Closed doors denote secrecy; secrecy arouses suspicion and leads to the question: "What are they hiding?"

The Herald does not believe the Planning Commission nor the Civil Service Board are "hiding" anything; but we feel duty bound to expose our reaction to being barred from a meeting of a public commission. We appreciate that it is sometimes good practice for members of these bodies to hold informal conferences for preliminary and unofficial discussion of problems, just as members of the City Council frequently meet to study civic matters. But whenever any public body meets in its official capacity at which formal action may be taken, certainly the press and the public have an inherent American right to be present.

We are not unmindful of the long and sometimes tedious hours which members of these commissions spend in performance of their duties, and of the fine community spirit which prompts them to give freely of their time and effort without compensation. The very fact that they are willing to serve on these important commissions denotes them as good American citizens with a sense of civic responsibility.

For this reason, no incident should be allowed to arise which would in any way cast suspicion upon their sincerity. We are confident that upon careful study, the members of these commissions will follow the lead of the City Council and freely admit the press and the public to all their official meetings.

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Local Women Arrested For Petty Theft

Following the arrest and conviction of Mrs. Doris Lyttle, 20350 S. New Hampshire ave., on charges of petty theft in a local Safeway store, police arrested another local woman upon the complaint of George Paltridge, manager of the McCown Drug Co.

Paltridge charged that Mrs. Sylvia Fink, 1221 El Prado, had stolen a carton of cigarettes and some magazines from his store Feb. 8. This charge was denied by Mrs. Fink before City Judge John Shidler. She asked for a jury trial and the case was set for March 6.

The drug company manager stated that several thefts had

been made in the store recently with four juveniles being caught and reprimanded by the police.

Mrs. Lyttle was fined \$25 on her plea of guilty before City Judge Shidler.

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Star Chamber Sessions AN EDITORIAL

There is no place in democratic government for "closed sessions" of public commissions.